

September 13, 2012

Mr. Cory Verblen  
Communications Manager  
Illinois Office of Health Information Technology  
Email: [cory.verblen@illinois.gov](mailto:cory.verblen@illinois.gov)

RE: Submission of Letter of Intent, HIE White Space Grant Program

Dear Mr. Verblen

I would like to take this opportunity to submit a Letter of Intent for Presence Holy Family Medical Center located at 100 North River Road, Des Plaines, IL (FEIN# 36-2439318) to participate in the application from the Illinois Office of Technology for the HIE White Space Grant Program

## **BACKGROUND**

Holy Family Medical Center, a member of Presence Health, is a Long Term Acute Care (LTACH) Hospital located in Des Plaines, Illinois. The patient population consists of individuals who are medically complex and require specialized treatment including, ventilation management and weaning, extensive wound therapy, physical/occupational therapy, and other intensive services. Often patients will be discharged to skilled nursing facilities, extended care, or home.

Presence Holy Family Medical Center (PHFMC) has recently won the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA), 2012 Quality Excellence Achievement Award for reducing *Clostridium difficile* (C-difficile) by 57% from the previous fiscal year. In addition, HFMC won the 2010 Goldberg Award for Innovation sponsored by the National Association of Long Term Hospitals (NALTH), for decreasing central line associated blood stream infections by 47% in the LTACH population. PHFMC also volunteered to take part in a demonstration project partnered with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) in 2009. PHFMC contributed to the development of the Continuity and Record Evaluation, (CARE) tool which was part of the Quality Improvement Transfer Program in Illinois. This tool was developed to utilize resources more efficiently and improve patient outcomes and coordination of care. Through this demonstration project, a final tool was created and is currently used in the LTACH setting.

PHFMC receives patients from in-patient acute care hospitals located throughout the State of Illinois and nationally. Using the ILHIE Secure Messaging option for transferring patients will allow patient data to be transmitted from the acute care setting with relevant patient information in a concise format, promoting continued continuity and quality patient care.

PHFMC believes and strives to decrease the barriers which prevent the seamless exchange of information so that we may enhance patient access to care. As Secretary Kathleen Sebelius stated in her announcement of the HIE Cooperative Agreement Program, "these critical

investments will help unleash the power of health information technology to cut costs, eliminate paperwork and help doctors deliver high-quality, coordinated care to patients." PHFMC has this intent and direction and with the HIE funds will continue to make the State of Illinois an integral part of this design.

## **SCOPE OF PROPOSAL**

1. When patients are discharged to a skilled nursing facility or short-term acute care facility, extensive amounts of paperwork must be completed by both organizations. HFMC will collaborate with its current 17 Continuum of Care nursing homes and short-term acute care customers to connect to the HIE. We have additional collaborative arrangements with retirement homes, physicians, and licensed ancillary professionals that will allow us to connect the required 50 eligible individuals directly to the ILHIE network. This will promote continuity of care and streamline the patient reporting process. PHFMC currently collects and submits quality indicator data to regulatory agencies. One of the goals that Holy Family will strive for is to promote collection of Meaningful Use from facilities that do not have the resources to implement an electronic medical record option.
2. PHFMC will connect with HIE to submit discharge data to respective nursing homes both within the Presence Health network and to established regional facilities. When Holy Family's EPIC electronic medical record system is fully implemented, data will be submitted to the HIE electronically via an EPIC interface, (on the approved vendor list), and will continue to use the HIE connection for the transmission of patient data to both short-term care and skilled care customers that do not have an electronic medical record option. This service will continue to promote the well-being of the patient, increase the information to staff while providing a value service to the communities.
3. PHFMC has nurse liaisons for its skilled nursing facilities and short term care customers and affiliates. These nurses can assist in implementation, education and assimilation of the HIE into the current workflow process. Nurse liaisons will be an asset to this process as they are the first contact for patient care and intake for new patients at each facility.
4. Presence Health has successfully implemented electronic medical records into two of its acute care hospitals, St. Francis Hospital in Evanston and St. Joseph Hospital in Chicago. Shortly, Resurrection Hospital in Chicago will be using EMR. In downstate Illinois, Presence's acute care hospitals currently use electronic medical records and many of the ambulatory sites are using electronic medical records. St. Francis and St. Joseph Hospital are now able to submit Meaningful Use data.

Two different inpatient electronic medical record systems (Meditech and EPIC) are used within the Presence Health system. The implementation of HIE as a common vehicle for disseminating patient data, can be very helpful in ensuring continuity of patient care, medication reconciliation, and ultimately promoting patient safety between the system acute care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and short term acute facilities who refer patients to PHFMC.

5. PHFMC will collaborate with Healthlink (Presence Health's Information Division) to assist in coordination of the HIE project.

PHFMC's services will provide a key component to the new delivery system models in the evolving healthcare environment. Using the HIE to the fullest extent with its established care partners will assist in allowing PHFMC to streamline workflow processes and to continue to promote quality patient care. We have always endorsed a strong working relationship with State of Illinois. Using the HIE in concert with PHFMC will augment the collection of data and allow enhancement of chronic care disease management within the State of Illinois. Through the use of the HIE funds, we will strengthen this connection and ultimately increase the success of the state health system.

I look forward to submitting the application for the HIE White Space Program.

Sincerely,

*Marti Edwards*

Marti Edwards, MSN, RN, CCRN, LNC  
Vice President, Patient Care Services